

REMARKS

In this Amendment, Applicant has cancelled Claims 7 – 17 without prejudice or disclaimer and amended Claims 1 – 2 to specify different embodiments of the present invention and overcome the rejection. The cancelled Claims 7 – 17 are directed to non-elected inventions and Applicant reserves the right to file divisional applications directed to these embodiments. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been introduced by the amended claims. All claims are now present for examination and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the preceding amendments and the following comments.

DRAWING OBJECTION:

The drawings have been rejected as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include certain reference character not mentioned in the description.

It is respectfully submitted that the informalities have been overcome. More specifically, the specification has been amended to add the reference to “321” on page 10, line 24 of the specification and delete the erroneous reference “317”. Thus, the drawings and the description are now consistent. It is respectfully submitted that no new matters have been introduced by the amendment.

Therefore, the objection to the drawing has been overcome. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Kim et al. (US Pat. No. 5,972,477), hereinafter Kim.

Applicant traverses the rejection and respectfully submits that the presently claimed invention is not anticipated by the cited reference. More specifically, Claim 1 has been amended to define that “the projection includes a non-woven textile material supported in a thermoplastic matrix material, and wherein the projection includes rings which are progressively formed along its sidewall under the multiple impacts such that the projection is capable of retaining energy-absorption capacity at least after the first impact of the multiple impacts.” In addition, Claim 2 has been amended to define that “the projection has a conical sidewall and a generally flat top.” These features are not disclosed or suggested by Kim. Claims 5 and 6 also include these features due to their dependence on Claim 1. The support for the amendment can be found throughout the specification, for example, Figs 1D, 3B and the descriptions on page 7, lines 26 – 29.

Although Kim describes a three-dimensional fiber network material 1 having a multiplicity of projections 3 on base plane 2, the projections 3 do not “include rings which are progressively formed along its sidewall under the multiple impacts” as required by the present invention and showed in, for example, Fig. 1D. Such ring structures allow the projection to retain energy-absorption capacity after the first impact such that the projection is **progressively collapsible** (emphasis added).

In addition, it is respectfully submitted that Kim has not disclosed the specific shape of the projection of the present invention as defined in amended Claim 2 that the projection has a conical sidewall and a generally flat top. Such a shape assists in the formation of the ring structures along the sidewall when the projection is under impact, and thereby, allows the projection to retain energy-absorption capacity.

Therefore, the newly presented claims are not anticipated by Kim and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) has been overcome. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 3 – 4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kim in view of Brock et al. (US Pat. No. 3,788,936).

Applicant traverses the rejection and respectfully submits that the embodiments of present-claimed invention are not obvious over Kim in view of Brock. The significant differences between the present invention and Kim have been discussed as above. In addition, Brock has not disclosed the newly added features as discussed above.

Due to above indicated differences, there is no motivation or reasonable expectation of success to combine Kim with Brock. Therefore, Even if they are combined, a person of ordinary skill in the art will not discern the present invention at time of its invention.

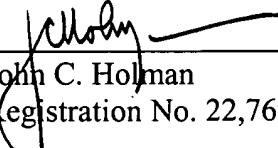
In summary, the newly presented claims are not obvious over Kim in view of Brock. The rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 has been overcome. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is respectfully requested.

Having overcome all outstanding grounds of rejection, the application is now in condition for allowance, and prompt action toward that end is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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